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Sent: Sat 8/15/2015 11:40:26 PM
Subject: EPA Statement on New Mexico Reopening Drinking Water Systems and Recreational Use on the Animas and San Juan Rivers

This statement is to use in response to NM announcement scheduled for tonight.

EPA Statement on New Mexico Reopening Drinking Water Systems and Recreational Use on the Animas and San Juan Rivers

New Mexico announced its determination that drinking water systems and recreational activity along the Animas and San Juan rivers can resume based on water quality sampling results collected by both New Mexico Environment Department and the EPA.

Reopening drinking water system intakes and allowing recreational activities is a state and local decision and we believe they have taken appropriate steps in arriving at this decision. EPA sampling results from the river collected last week similarly show that water quality conditions are returning toward pre-event conditions.

We know the state has gone through a deliberative process in making this decision. EPA will continue to sample, analyze, and make data available to support local decision makers moving forward to allow them to make the best informed decisions.